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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Fourth periodic report of States parties

Addendum

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland* (The Turks and Caicos Islands)

* For the initial report submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom, see CEDAW/C/5/Add.52 and Amend.1–4; for its consideration by the Committee, see CEDAW/C/SR.155, CEDAW/C/SR.156 and CEDAW/C/SR.159 and CEDAW/C/SR.160, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/45/38), paras. 167–213. For the second periodic report submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom, see CEDAW/C/UK/2 and Amend.1, for its consideration by the Committee, see CEDAW/C/SR.223 and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/48/38), paras. 523–589. For the third periodic report submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom see CEDAW/C/UK/3 and Add.1 and Add.2.

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Introduction

1. This report supplements the Third Report in respect of the Turks and Caicos Islands dated January 1998.

2. This Report has been prepared in consultation with the authorities of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

3. A contemporaneous report has also been submitted to the Committee established for the purposes of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In this report, the Committee is referred to certain parts of that report which also relate to the position of women

Background

Population and economy

4. Current estimates are:

Population:	in excess of 20,000	
GDP (1996):	US$ 114,852	
Tourism:	arrivals (1997):	93,011
	estimates (1998):	102,000.

Laws

5. The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Ordinance 1950 had rendered unlawful any disqualification by sex or marriage for the exercise of any public functions, for appointment to any civil or judicial post, for entering any civil profession or vocation, or for admission to any incorporate society. Updating, and extending, those provisions as regards the public service, the 1998 edition of the General Orders of

the Turks and Caicos Islands Public Service includes Order 1.4 ' Women in the Public Service' - which provides:

> "Women candidates compete for entry into the Public Service and for promotion within the Public Service on equal terms with men and receive equal pay for equal work. Save as may be expressly provided in these Orders, women officers enjoy the same conditions as men."
> (There are presently no exceptions in General Orders)

Specific information relating to Articles of the Convention

Article 5
Elimination of prejudices and stereotyped roles

6. Further to paragraph 6 of the Third Report, a trained and experienced counsellor has now been appointed to Clement Howell School. Clement Howell is the largest school in the Islands. Counselling programmes have been implemented as a consequence of her appointment.

Article 6
Sexual exploitation of women

7. The 1997 statistics for the crimes against women are as follows:

Assault occasioning actual bodily harm:	4
Assault on a female:	6
Rape:	3
Indecent assault:	3
Murder:	1.

Article 7
Political and Public Life

8. The Chief Secretary attended the meeting of Commonwealth Senior Officials in London in October 1998. The post of Deputy Chief Secretary is now also held by a woman, as are the four posts of District Commissioner.

Article 11
Employment

9. Under the Employment Order made under the Employment Ordinance (Cap.136), which applies equally to both sexes:

- a minimum remuneration is payable to every employee;
- holidays are to be granted;
-any employee absent from work because of ill health is to be paid remuneration at a prescribed rate and is entitled to return to work at the end of a prescribed period;

- severance pay at a prescribed rate is payable for a prescribed period of continuous employment;
- the maximum number of hours of work and other terms and conditions of employment are prescribed.

10. Section 2 of the Ordinance entitles women to eight weeks maternity leave, if she has been in employment for two years, for four confinements. The employee is entitled to holiday leave in addition to maternity leave. The General Orders for the Public Service also provide for maternity leave of six weeks on full pay or twelve weeks on half pay; the qualifying period of two years does not apply to women on the pensionable establishment. Under the national insurance scheme, a maternity grant is payable to a woman by virtue of her own or her husband's insurance.

Article 12
Health

11. Following a report on health sector reform in 1994, the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands established a Primary Health Care Unit responsible for first level health care for the inhabitants. The Primary Health Care Unit is responsible for the total care of the pregnant woman and the safe delivery of a healthy infant. This includes the encouragement of an early "booking" in the first three months, at least six visits to the antenatal clinic, of which two at least are conducted by an obstetrician and the rest by a qualified midwife. Ultrasound examinations are conducted and diseases diagnosed are treated, e.g. toxaemia in pregnancy. If they consent, pregnant women are tested for HIV and the drug AZT is offered to HIV positive mothers. Women are also screened for hepatitis B and necessary treatment given. Fetal monitoring is conducted on women in labour. Iron supplements are routinely given to pregnant women.

12. For further information the Committee is referred to paragraphs 37 and 38 (pregnant women and infant mortality), paragraphs 41 and 43 (health services, family planning and health education) and paragraph 44 (AIDS/HIV) of the Initial Report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child in respect of the Turks and Caicos Islands dated September 1998.